

WASHINGTON REPORT

by Congressman James T. Broyhill

HEART DISEASE, CANCER, AND STROKE

Heart disease, cancer, and stroke are the cause of 70 percent of the deaths in this country today. Public interest in combating these killers is high and tens of millions of dollars from many sources are being poured into research activities

to find new methods of treatment and, hopefully, to find eventual preventive measures and cures. There has been progress and reason to expect more achievements from the battle being waged against these dread diseases. What these developments will be remains for the future to disclose.

Advances in medical knowledge are occurring so rapidly that a premium is placed on

effective and convenient transmission of information to the medical practitioner who, in the final analysis, must decide what his patient needs and how he is treated.

The momentum of the present research offensive causes a problem, which the House of Representatives considered last week. The debate came after months of study of the legislation by the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of which I am a member.

In the drafting of the original bill for legislation in this field, it became clear that what was being proposed was a program to inject the Federal government into the medical field on a huge scale. A bitter argument ensued and it became clear that the massive plans of this program were, in fact, ill defined. The language would cast the Federal government in a new unfamiliar role which promised little in the way of positive results although the program could well upset the balance of medical care in this country.

The American Medical Association and other professional groups in the health care field provided valuable assistance as they offered informed perspective in the formulation of new legislation which our Committee developed carefully. That legislation met objections which were raised and set the wheels in motion for unanimous agreement in the Committee on a bill that had shown every promise of being one of the most controversial measures of the year.

The new program would support cooperative arrangements along lines already successfully worked out in some areas between medical schools and their affiliated teaching hospitals with research centers, local hospitals and practicing physicians under which patients could be provided with the latest advances in diagnosis and treatment for heart disease, cancer, and stroke. We can hope that from this legislation will come valuable assistance in the future at the bedside of those stricken by these diseases.

THE PORK BARRELL
In the public mind, authorization bills for rivers, harbors,

and flood control are the original "pork barrell" bills. The 1965 bill was debated and passed by the House last week.

Certainly, one of the oldest and most solidly based Federal responsibilities relates to control of rivers, harbors, and flood prevention. This work is costly, but the failure to carry out needed projects can be far more expensive. Many hundreds of past projects are paying off in economic development, contributions to commerce and soil conservation, and the protection of lives and billions of dollars worth of property from the ravages of annual floods. In this sense, the rivers and harbors legislation does not deserve to be painted with such a broad brush of public scorn as sometimes happens. Nevertheless, the reputation of the legislation stems from an over-anxious desire to throw into bills of this kind projects that have not been given adequate study and which threaten to be wasteful white elephants. Unfortunately, the bill last week had elements of that kind in it.

One of these is a billion dollar project to develop the Trinity River in Texas by making available for navigation a twelve-foot canal, 150 feet wide, running 300 to 40 miles across Texas. This scheme would turn the inland city of Fort Worth into a seaport. All of this is not just an exercise in imagination. Its costs are vast, indeed, and I do not believe the Congress should give its stamp of approval to the very sketchy and incomplete evidence that has been presented so far.

Bills like this can do great harm to the confidence and the pocketbooks of the American people if the Congress insists upon sloughing over the very serious questions that have been raised about such projects as that planned for the Trinity River. This only leads to the further and justifiable public charge that the Congress is participating again in its favorite sport of fishing in the "pork barrell".

Mrs. Arthur Freeman of Mocksville has returned home from Davie Hospital.

LOCALS

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Shoaf and children of Troutman visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Spillman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Shoaf on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Jacobs attended the football game on Saturday between Wake Forest and State with the latter winning 13-11. Their son, H. M. Jr., is a member of the State Band.

Lindsey Head returned home on Saturday from the Rowan Memorial Hospital and is recuperating at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Maggie Jacobs.

Katherine McDaniel has returned home from Davie Hospital.

Steven Jordan and Miss Helen Grant of Appalachian State Teachers College spent the weekend with their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Isley will accompany their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Robinson of Winston-Salem to Jonesboro,

Ga. for a 10-day visit with another daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sowell, who will return home with them to Coolemeec.

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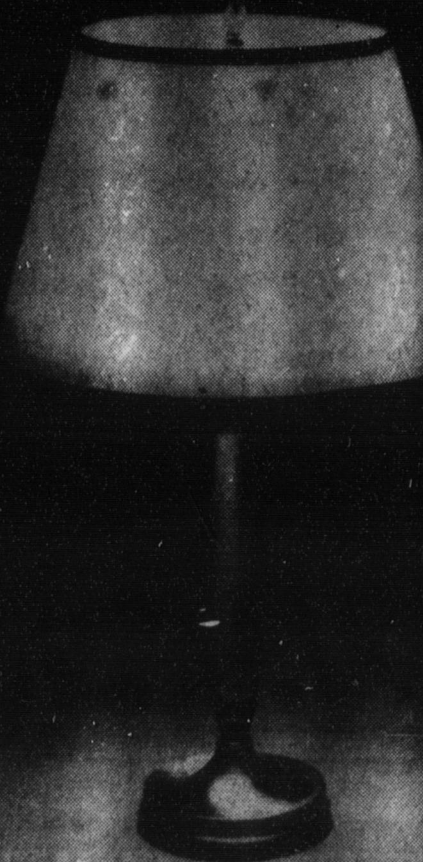
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